



P O Box 62606
Marshalltown 2107

1st Floor, Edura House
41 Fox Street, JHB

Tel: (011) 298-8500

Fax: (011) 298-8590

E-mail: foundations1@jhbchildwelfare.org.za
director@jhbchildwelfare.org.za

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To whom it may concern

The Johannesburg Child Welfare Society (JCWS), a leading child protection service provider, has been helping children in the Greater Johannesburg area, of South Africa, for 100 years, this being our centenary year. Over this time we have expanded our services to deal with a myriad of issues facing the children in our care.

Programmes include a day care centre that assists orphaned and vulnerable children, as well as a pre-school centre which cares for the younger siblings; two children's homes; foster-care supervision; a life-skills centre helping destitute mothers and girls develop employment skills; child protection services for children who have been neglected, orphaned, abused or made vulnerable by HIV and AIDS, as well as an active advocacy programme through which we lobby for children's rights in South Africa. We pioneered specialised services for children who have been sexually abused and their families, as well as initiated a training section to educate professionals, lay counsellors, volunteers, and traditional healers about child sexual abuse and intervention methods.

Through the partnership and support of **the infant trust** we have been able to make an impact on the skills shortage which has been experienced in the social work field and allied professions in South Africa. Groups of volunteers or caregivers participate in specialised training courses which empower them to work with children who have either been sexually abused, or have been orphaned, predominantly through AIDS. **The infant trust** has taken a personal interest in the partnerships that they have formed with credible organisations, the content of these training courses as well as the progress of the participants. **The infant trust** has not seen the training courses as a once-off investment, but have advocated constantly for the skills progression of the participants which has led to them sponsoring a number of social auxiliary learners in our newly established Aganang Training Centre. This will give the learners an accredited qualification, enabling them to further their career in this field while simultaneously adding value to the community as most of the learners are either employed or are volunteers in emerging community based organisations in the Orphans and Vulnerable Children [OVC] field.

Together with enlightened organisations such as **the infant trust**, JCWS is able to address the skills shortage in South Africa by empowering communities to effectively reach out to vulnerable children. Many more cases of abuse are now being reported or addressed at community level which is testimony to the positive effect that the training has had in terms of raising awareness of child sexual abuse. We look forward to an ongoing partnership with **the infant trust** who support and enable us to provide training which will have a far-reaching effect on the communities that we serve.

Mrs Lyn Perry

Please remember to visit our website at www.jhbchildwelfare.org.za

We serve children, their families and their communities and promote and protect their rights, well-being and Dignity.

PATRONS: Mr Tokyo Sexwale and Mrs Judy Sexwale

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